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INFORMATION ON USSR AGRICULTURE, 10 - 20 JANUARY 1953

Comment: This report presents information, from Soviet news-
papers, on agriculture in the USSR as a whole and in seven union re-
publics. Progress and statistical data are given on the following:
crops, mechanization, fertilization, irrigation, rural electrifica-
tion, and kolkhoz consolidation.

25X1

USSR

In 1952, the sown area to all agricultural crops in the USSR was 1.4
times as great as in 1913; the area devoted to grain crops increased by 5 per-
cent, that devoted to industrial, olericultural, and cucurbit crops was 2.4
times as great, and that devoted to fodder crops was more than 1,100 times as
great. (1)

In 1952, 297 rural hydroelectric power stations went into operation in
the USSR, 912 steam electric power stations were built in kolkhozes and MTS,
and more than 1,000 kolkhozes were electrified.

Electricity is used in USSR agriculture for pumping water on livestock
farms, preparing fodder, shearing sheep, milking, threshing grain, drying grain,
grading grain, and irrigation. Total capacity of new motors installed in kol-
khozes in 1952 exceeded 80,000 horsepower.

In 1953, it is planned to electrify at least 1,600 more kolkhozes. New
power stations are to be larger than those built in the past. Many stations
will be built in the Ukraine, Georgia, Dagestanskaya ASSR, Udmurtskaya ASSR,
and Stavropol'skiy Kray. For mechanization of labor-consuming work on live-
stock farms, kolkhozes of the USSR are to receive thousands of new motors with
a total capacity exceeding 90,000 horsepower. Electrification of MTS is to be
completed in 1953. (2)

- 1 -

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CONFIDENTIALUkrainian SSR

A number of kolkhozes in southern Odesskaya Oblast have cultivated rice for the second year by a periodic irrigation, instead of by flooding their fields. In 1952, the Kolkhoz imeni Stalin in Belyayevskiy Rayon harvested 30 or more quintals of rice per hectare on some fields; the Za Vladu Rad Kolkhoz in Domanevskiy Rayon harvested about 35 quintals per hectare.

In 1953, unflooded rice will also be grown by kolkhozes in the northern portion of the oblast. The area sown to rice will be twice as extensive as in 1952. The best fields, deeply plowed and winter fallowed, will be used for rice growing. (3)

Kolkhozes in the Poles'ye Lowland areas of the Ukraine have achieved a considerable increase in the yield of rye, wheat, flax, vegetables, and other crops. In 1952, lupine was sown for green manure purposes on an area of about 70,000 hectares.

Kolkhozes in the Poles'ye Lowland are considerably expanding the area sown to industrial crops such as sugar beets, flax, hemp, hops, and others. The area sown to lupine for green manure is being increased three times; liming of acid soils will be performed on an area of 565,000 hectares; deeper plowing of podzolic soils will be carried out on an area of 500,000 hectares. (4)

Sovkhozes in the western Ukrainian oblasts delivered considerably more grain to the state in 1952 than in 1951. (5)

MTS of the republic exceeded the 1952 plan for tractor work, working 5 million more hectares than in 1951. MTS performed 93.9 percent of all plowing, 86.5 percent of all sowing, and 71.9 percent of all harvesting in kolkhozes of the republic. They performed 170 types of work in kolkhozes.

Many MTS of the republic achieved considerable successes in machine utilization. High performers were Dobrovelichkovskaya MTS and Pavlovskaya MTS in Dnepropetrovskaya Oblast; in these MTS, output per 15-horsepower tractor was 4 hectares per shift and, during the busy season, more than 4.5 hectares per shift. (6)

[The following article, signed by I. Artyukhov and G. Mazhara, agricultural scientists, was entitled "Fuller Utilization of Local Fertilizer Reserves."]

Data of agricultural experimental stations and the experience of kolkhozes through the years emphasize the fact that application of manure to the chernozem soils in the steppe zone of the Ukraine increases the yield of winter wheat by 5-7 quintals per hectare. Succeeding crops also show an increase in yield.

The increase in the number of head of livestock in kolkhozes of the republic creates possibilities for extensive application of manure fertilizer not only to fields being summer fallowed for winter wheat but also to fields to be sown to other crops. In 1953, it will be possible to procure at least twice as much manure in the southern Ukraine as in former years. This will permit application of organic fertilizer to the chernozem soils of at least two fields in the crop rotation at the rate of 10-12 metric tons per hectare. Carrying out of this measure will make it possible to achieve a rise in yield of 3-5 quintals per hectare from the fertilized fields and also assure higher yields in succeeding years.

For more effective utilization of manure in the southern Ukraine, it may be applied in small amounts, especially when applied in conjunction with mineral fertilizers. At the Ukrainian Scientific Research Institute for Grain Growing in Dnepropetrovskaya Oblast, the following 2-year (1951 - 1952) average winter

- 2 -

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25X1

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wheat yield increases were obtained, depending on the amount of manure applied per hectare: 20 metric tons, 5.9 quintals; 10 metric tons, 3.7 quintals; and 5 metric tons, 3 quintals. Application of the smallest amount of manure (5 metric tons) together with 30 kilograms of mineral fertilizer per hectare produced a yield increase of 6 quintals per hectare, i. e., about the same increase as from application of 20 metric tons of manure.

These figures show that a higher return per ton of manure in terms of rise in yield is obtained when manure is applied in small amounts. The results also apply to other crops such as maize and sunflowers.

Thus, to increase the yield of 1953 crops, it is necessary to utilize all available manure supplies in kolkhozes under spring crops and for supplemental fertilization of winter wheat at the rate of 5-6 metric tons per hectare.(7)

Armenian SSR

By January 1953, 14 rayons in the republic had been fully electrified.(8)

RSFSR

The first imported vegetable seeds were brought into the Kurile Islands 7 years ago. Increasingly large plots of land have been reclaimed year after year from the bamboo swamps [sic]. Now, the first vegetable exposition has been held in the southern Kuriles. Shown at the exposition were large water-melons, cabbages, tomatoes, carrots, beans, eggplants, peppers, and potatoes. Some of the potatoes weighed as much as 710 grams. All of the products exhibited were grown on the fields of the Pobeda, Saratovskiy Rybak, and Rodina fishing kolkhozes and of the Kuril'skiy Sovkhoz.(9)

At the Voronezhskaya Oblast conference of MTS and shelter belt station directors, Kalganov, chief of the Voronezhskaya Oblast Agricultural Administration, stated that in 1953 the level of mechanized field work in kolkhozes of the oblast is to reach 93 percent. In 1953, the areas devoted to industrial crops, potatoes, and fodder root crops are to be increased in the oblast.(10)

Snow retention work, a measure which preserves winter crops from freezing out and helps create a moisture supply in the soil, is especially important under the conditions which prevail in Chkalovskaya Oblast. But in most sovkhoses of the oblast, this work is unsatisfactory. Snow retention is being carried out on only 40,000 hectares of the 375,000 hectares covered by the plan.

Similarly, haulage of local fertilizers in sovkhoses of Chkalovskaya Oblast is not well organized. Of the 111,000 metric tons of fertilizer planned to be hauled on the fields during the winter, only 12,000 metric tons had been hauled by January.(5)

Recently, five rural hydroelectric power stations went into operation in Bashkirskaya ASSR. Construction of the Yuldybayevskaya GES on the Sakmara River in Matrayevskiy Rayon is being completed. It will supply five neighboring kolkhozes with power.

There are now 360 hydroelectric and steam electric rural power stations in the republic; these stations supply power to 245 kolkhozes, 136 MTS and LES (shelter belt stations), and other agricultural enterprises; there are 87,000 light bulbs in communal buildings.(11)

In 1952, 18 kolkhoz electric power stations went into operation in the Buryat-Mongol'skaya ASSR. Construction of three more stations is being completed, including the Toknovskaya station which will supply Toreyskiy Rayon

- 3 -

CONFIDENTIAL

25X1

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with power. In 1953, construction of more stations will be undertaken, including that of the Sukhinskaya station in Baykalo-Kudarinitskiy Rayon and Temnikovskaya station in Selenginskiy Rayon. (12)

There are now 1,200 consolidated kolkhozes in Orlovskaya Oblast. (13)

Kazakh SSR

The Ministry of Agriculture Kazakh SSR has received the first accounting reports of the sugar-beet-growing kolkhozes in the republic. In 1952, the growers of Dzhambul'skaya Oblast achieved considerable successes in expanding the area sown to sugar beets, and in obtaining higher yields. From the beets delivered by the kolkhozes of this oblast, the sugar industry produced almost 300 more cars of sugar than in 1951.

[In 1953?] kolkhozes of Kazakhstan are expanding the area sown to sugar beets by 15 percent as a result of more rational utilization of irrigated land. (14)

A domestic mineral fertilizer industry has been created in Kazakhstan. The requirements of cotton and sugar-beet growers for phosphate fertilizers are met to a considerable extent by the Dzhambul Superphosphate Plant.

In 1953, the Kazakh SSR Agricultural Supply Office plans to import 118,000 metric tons of various mineral fertilizers for the kolkhozes of the republic. (10)

Uzbek SSR

In southern Uzbekistan, many kolkhozes in Kashka-Dar'inskaya Oblast were sowing spring spiked grain crops by 10 January. In several rayons, more than 2,000 hectares of wheat and barley had already been sown. Sowing is being performed with tractor-drawn drills. (15) By 19 January, sowing of spiked grain crops was in full swing in kolkhozes of the oblast. (10)

In 1953, for the first time, mechanization is to be applied on a wide scale to rice growing in kolkhozes of the republic. Some kolkhozes with large sown areas are enlarging their rice fields. On such large fields, sowing is to be carried out with tractor-drawn seeders and harvesting with combines. In leading kolkhozes of Taschkentskaya and Khorezmskaya oblasts and Kara-Kalpakskaya ASSR, preparation of the fields to be sown by machine has already been completed. Considerable areas have also been prepared in kolkhozes of the Golodnaya Steppe. (4)

Cotton growing in the Uzbek SSR is the most mechanized in the world. Of the 58 field operations required in the cultivation of cotton, considerably more than half have been mechanized in one degree or another. Plowing is 96 percent mechanized, pre-sowing working of the soil 90 to 98 percent, sowing 95 percent, interrow cultivation 87 percent, initial cleaning of machine-picked raw cotton 100 percent, and initial processing of unopened cotton bolls 85 percent.

Electrification of cotton-growing kolkhozes in Uzbek SSR is proceeding slowly, despite available local resources and the enormous advantages of electrification. Up to 1 January 1953, only about one fifth of the kolkhozes in the republic had been electrified. These kolkhozes consume no more than 30 percent of the power available to them from the electric power stations in operation.

- 4 -

CONFIDENTIAL

25X1

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Electric power is used mainly (68 percent) for illumination; but even in extensively electrified kolkhozes, not more than 16 to 20 percent should be used for this purpose. In a cotton-growing kolkhoz with a sown area of 1,000 hectares, there ought to be 110 electric motors with a total capacity of 144 kilowatts, with 77 of the kilowatts being used sericulture. Actually, at present, such an electrified kolkhoz has an average of only 2.5 electric motors with only 11 kilowatts capacity. (16)

Turkmen SSR

Kolkhozes of Ashkhabadskaya Oblast had begun sowing wheat and barley by 14 January. Winter grains were becoming green in southern Turkmenia as a result of warm weather and rains. (17)

Kirgiz SSR

In the southern oblasts of the republic, temperatures of 10-12 degrees were warming the soil and conditioning it for 1953 spring field work. In some kolkhozes of Dzhahalal-Abadskaya Oblast, selective spring plowing had begun by 17 January. (18)

The Chu River Valley is the principal area in the Kirgiz SSR devoted to the cultivation of industrial crops, with sugar beets the leading crop. During the 10 prewar years, the area sown to sugar beets grew ninefold and by 1953 had increased by another 5,000 hectares. During the later prewar years, the Kirgiz SSR time and again held first place in the Soviet Union for the size of its sugar-beet harvest on irrigated soil. In 1940, for instance, each hectare yielded three times as many beets as during the early period of its cultivation in the republic.

However, postwar sugar-beet harvests have fallen short of prewar levels and in both 1951 and 1952 not a single rayon fulfilled its state plan for beet yield.

Regular crop rotation has not yet been introduced in many kolkhozes of the Chu River Valley; an insufficient amount of mineral and local fertilizers is used. These factors result in a low harvest of beets.

The number of squads obtaining more than 600 quintals of sugar beets per hectare has diminished each year from 37 in 1949, to 10 in 1950, to only a few in 1951 and 1952.

Low quality of tractor work, exemplified by shallow plowing, poor covering of seeds with soil, and superficial interrow cultivation, had an unfavorable effect on the yield of sugar beets. Care of sugar beets has deteriorated lately throughout Frunzenskaya Oblast.

In 1952, an average of only 3.5 interrow cultivations and 2.8 irrigations per hectare was carried out on kolkhoz sugar-beet plantations of the oblast; this average was much lower than the prewar average. Each hectare received 2.1 metric tons less local fertilizer and 4.5 quintals less mineral fertilizer than formerly. (3)

- 5 -

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2. Izvestiya, 14 Jan 53
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4. Ibid., 11 Jan 53
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Krasnoye Znamya)
10. Sotsialisticheskoye Zemledeliye, 20 Jan 53
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12. Pravda, 20 Jan 53
13. Sotsialisticheskoye Zemledeliye, 16 Jan 53
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- 6 -

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